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Thursday, 11th May 2017

Dear Parents,

School Funding cuts and Deptford Park

As many of you may be aware from news coverage the Government is imposing real term funding cuts on schools by freezing the amount of money that is allocated to schools for each pupil. However, at the same time inflation and the contributions that schools have to make towards their employees pensions and National Insurance contributions have risen significantly. This affects all schools and academies alike, both primary and secondary. Whilst the amount of money coming into most schools from government has remained static, the amount going out on expenditure due to government imposed changes has risen considerably.

Schools across the country are funded differently, and have been for many years. Generally, schools in urban areas are funded at a higher level than those in rural areas. This government has attempted to address these differences and introduce a new National Funding Formula, and the initial details were announced just before Christmas. However, it is now clear that many London schools will actually lose funding. Figures from the National Association of Headteachers, National Union of Teachers and the Association of Teachers & Lecturers, using the government's own formula and statistics, show that between now and 2020 there will be an average cut in funding of £339 per pupil in primary schools across the country. Some schools have already had to make staff redundancies.

As a result of this our school is facing significant financial challenges and I wanted to share this with you so that you begin to understand why things will inevitably have to change as a result of this. I will of course be working with governors to ensure we do whatever we can to limit the worst effects of the cuts. I am currently consulting with staff about changes we can make that would limit the impact on your child's education but still deliver the best possible experience for our children.

What can parents do to help and support their school?

The more people that raise their concerns with their MP, the more likely it is that changes may be made. It is important for parents to make their voice heard. You can do two things:

- Sign a national online petition:
<http://www.schoolcuts.org.uk/#!/contact-us>

You can also find more information at www.fairfundingforallschools.org, a parent-led website.

- Email your MP; you can use this link if you wish:
<http://www.schoolcuts.org.uk/#!/email-your-mp>

Head Teacher: Ken Johnson
Deputy Head: Leona Baffour

PTO



I am sorry if this letter makes for some difficult reading however I feel it is important to let you know of the challenges we are facing at the school with regards to funding so you can better understand what is happening. As ever, I am very grateful for the support parents give, in a range of ways, to our school.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Johnson', with a horizontal line above it.

Ken Johnson

headteacher@deptfordpark.lewisham.sch.uk